

Foster Care Review Board Utilization/Activity Report For the Month of February 2011

Important Considerations: The number of reviews conducted each month may be impacted by the following: 1) not filling two review specialist vacancies - one due to anticipated budget cuts in 2011 and one due to the 2009 special Legislative session budget cuts, 2) challenges created by the implementation of the child welfare reform, 3) holidays, and 4) staff vacations.

Current Month Statistics

	Reviews in Current Month	Goal for Current Month*	Percent of Monthly Goal Reviewed*	Reviews Year to Date	Goal for Year to Date*	Percent of YTD Review Goal Completed*
Children reviewed	407	370*	110%*	778	745*	104%

*The goal is based on current staffing levels. Since the economic downturn began the FCRB has lost 1 supervisor position, 3 support staff positions, and 5 review specialist positions, and recently has not filled 2 vacancies, thus the FCRB is unable to review all children. A plan is being developed to potentially conduct more reviews.

Additional information on children reviewed this month:

IV-E Children Reviewed	198 (49%)	Children age birth-five	162 (40%)
Non IV-E Children Reviewed	209 (51%)	Children age six to 18	245 (60%)

Point in Time Statistics

Total children in out-of-home care March 28, 2011 4,408 children
 Children who had been in out-of-home care 6 months or longer 2,888 children

Subtotals of those in care 6 months or longer→	Reviewed in the last 6 months	1,949	(67%)
	Reviewed, but not in last 6 months	449	(16%)
	Not reviewed	490	(18%)

Facts regarding the 490 children not reviewed:

Age breakdown: 49 children are age 0-5, 71 children are age 6-12, 370 children are age 13-18

DHHS office/area of the children not reviewed:

2 are from Beatrice	19 are from Grand Island	5 are from Norfolk
7 are from Broken Bow	7 are from Hastings	10 are from North Platte
1 is from Center, Nebraska	19 are from Kearney	196 are from Omaha
5 are from Columbus	2 are from Lexington	54 are from Papillion**
7 are from Dakota City	113 are from Lincoln	4 are from Pender
16 are from Fremont**	6 are from McCook	2 are from Pierce
1 is from Gering	4 are from Nebraska City	8 are from York**

**DHHS offices noted above that are closing or re-organizing – This reflects current DHHS offices – due to reorganization some offices are closing or are becoming a hub office, so numbers by office from month-to-month will vary.

IVE Status: 16 are IVE eligible , 474 are not eligible

(IVE Eligible children include: 1 from Beatrice, 8 from Lincoln, 3 from North Platte, 3 from Omaha, and 1 from Papillion)

Other Work to Ensure Children's Safety

Court attended. Staff attended court on 36 cases involving 61 children during February. The Board's recommendations were introduced in 29 cases where the recommendation had not been previously introduced into the record. In 31 of the cases the board's concerns were addressed.

Joint staffings with DHHS and/or lead agencies. Staff and/or supervisors staffed 41 individual children's cases involving serious issues with DHHS and/or Lead agencies in February.

Additional calls, emails, letters, meetings. During February the review specialists and/or their supervisor made 125 extra contacts to ensure that issues identified on a child's case were addressed. This consisted of additional calls, emails, letters, and/or meetings.

Facility or foster home visits. There were 5 foster home visits for 10 children in February. No facility tours were conducted in February.

Team meetings. 27 cases were brought to an 1184 team meeting in February. During February the Review Specialists attended 3 family group conference/team meetings to discuss case issues on behalf of children.

Special Requests Received

Seven special requests were received on 9 children during February. Requests for review or assistance included safety concerns, placement concerns, transportation issues, and service delivery issues.

Statistics Requests

During February there were four requests for statistics other than those in the annual report. This does not include persons using the website to obtain statistics. Senator Council's office called wondering if we had statistics on children prescribed psychotropic medications, as did Voices for Children. Later in the month Voices asked for the newest total number of children in out-of-home care. The Dawson County CASA asked for statistics regarding Lincoln County – they later let us know that the new program for Lincoln County (North Platte) was approved by their county board. These requests were filled by the Data Coordinator.

Summary of Director's Meetings

Work with Senators: During February, the Executive Director met with Senator Campbell, Chair of Health and Human Services, and members of the Appropriations Committee regarding our budget. Staff and the Executive Director prepared for the FCRB's appropriations hearing.

Judicial Informational Meetings: The Executive Director assisted in the training of a new judge.

DHHS and Lead Agency Meetings. The Executive Director attended the Partner's Council meeting. March meetings with the lead agency directors were scheduled.

Summary of Staff Collaborative Efforts

Through the Eyes Meetings: In February, 2 Supervisors and 3 Review Specialist attended 4 Through the Eyes of a Child meeting.

Child and Family Service Reviews: DHHS is conducting practice mini CFSR's to prepare for the Federal CFSR (federal audit). Staff will be involved in the training and actual reviews on a quarterly basis as time allows, e.g., the Review Specialist in the Central Service Area participated in January and will participate again in April.

CQI Team Meetings: Supervisors and the Program Coordinator continued to meet with partners/stake holders, and lead agencies statewide and serve on CQI teams look at issues. A web-cam is being used in the Lincoln office to meet with the Central Service Area administration each month.

Administration and Support

The Data Coordinator assisted the Director in tracking legislation and drafting testimony for legislative hearings, provided testimony on LB 80, and continued to provide statistics and lists from the tracking system for staff and non-staff usage.

The Administrative Coordinator and Administrative Staff continued to track children and their outcomes, process notifications and recommendations, and assure payroll and accounts payable were processed.

Trainings

No trainings were provided or attended in February.

Personnel

2 staff members had an anniversary date in February. 1 annual performance review was written and will be reviewed with Review Specialist when the Supervisor meets with this person face to face in April.